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1869

CHARTER,

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

OF THE

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

OF THE

CITY OF TROY.

TROY, N. Y.:

DAILY PRESS STEAM PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT,

208 and 210 River St.

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ACT OF INCORPORATION.

AN ACT

To incorporate the Troy Young Men's Association.

Passed April 20, 1835.

The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

§ 1. The members of the Young Men's Association for mutual improvement, in the city of Troy, and all persons who shall hereafter be associated with them, are hereby created a body corporate by the name of "The Troy Young Men's Association," for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a library, reading-rooms, literary and scientific lectures, and other means of promoting moral and intellectual improvement, with power for such purposes to take by purchase, devise or otherwise, and to hold, transfer and convey, real and personal property, to the amount of thirty thousand dollars; and also, further to take, hold and convey, all such books, cabinets, library, furniture and apparatus, as may be necessary for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the said corporation.

Corpora-
tion
Created.

§ 2. The control and disposal of the funds, property and estate, and the direction and management of the concerns of the said corporation shall be vested in an executive committee, to consist of the president, the first, second and third vice-presidents, the corresponding secretary, the recording secretary, the treasurer, and ten managers of the said corporation; who shall be elected annually to their respective offices, by such of the members of the said association as are now or may be entitled by the constitution thereof, to vote at such election.

Executive
Committee.

§ 3. In addition to the officers mentioned in the second section of this act, the several officers of the debating society now organized by the said association shall, so long as the said corporation shall see fit to continue the said debating society as a department thereof, and no longer, be ex-officio members of the said executive committee, with the like powers, privileges and duties, as the other members thereof.

Debating
Society.

Present officers.

§ 4. The several officers of the said association, at the time of the passage of this act, shall continue to hold their respective offices as officers of the corporation hereby created, until the next annual election; and all personal property, or funds, or securities now held by the said officers, or either or any of them, or any other person or persons in trust for the said association, or for the use or benefit of the same, including choses in action, which, by the terms thereof, are payable to either or any of the said officers, or to any other person or persons in trust for the said association, shall, by virtue of this act, vest in and become the property of, and may be sued for and recovered in the name of the corporation hereby created. And the said corporation shall assume and be liable for all contracts, agreements and responsibilities, which have been entered into or incurred previous to the passage of this act, by the officers of the said association, or any of them, lawfully acting in behalf of the said association.

Election.

§ 5. The annual election for officers of the said corporation shall be held on the third Monday of February in each year; notice of which shall be published in two of the newspapers of the city of Troy, at least fourteen days previous to such election, or on such other day as the said corporation, in and by its constitution, may appoint.

Agents and servants.

§ 6. The executive committee shall have power to appoint, and at pleasure remove, such agents or servants as the business or interests of the said corporation may in their opinion require.

Estate, property & funds.

§ 7. The estate, property and funds of the said corporation shall be devoted solely to the general purposes and objects specified in the first section of this act, and the real estate of this incorporation shall be subject to taxation in the same manner as real estate is that is held or owned by individuals.

General powers.

§ 8. The said corporation shall possess the powers, and be subject to the provisions and liabilities of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes.

Act to take effect.
Right to repeal.

§ 9. This act shall take effect immediately after its passage.

§ 10. This act may at any time hereafter be amended, modified or repealed by the Legislature.

STATE OF NEW YORK, }
Secretary's Office. }

I have compared the preceding with an original act of the Legislature of this State, on file in this office, and do certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original.

ARCH'D CAMPBELL,

Dep. Secretary.

ALBANY, April 25th, 1835.

P R E A M B L E .

We, the undersigned, being desirous of advancing the welfare of the community of which we are members, do associate ourselves for the purpose of maintaining a Library, a Reading Room, an annual Course of Lectures, and other means of promoting moral and intellectual improvement; and, to effect these ends, do establish the following Constitution :

CONSTITUTION.

ADOPTED DECEMBER 12, 1854.

SECTION I.

The name and style of this Association shall be "THE TROY YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION." Article 1.
Name and
Style.

SECTION II.

The officers of the Association shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and ten Managers, all of whom shall be elected at the annual meeting, by ballot. Article 1.

Govern-
ment.

The members of this Association shall also constitute a Society to be called the "YOUNG MEN'S DEBATING SOCIETY," the officers of which shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents and a Secretary, to be chosen by ballot, at the annual meeting of the Association. Article 2.

Debating
Society.

The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurer, Managers, and the four officers of Debating Society (ex-officio) shall constitute an Executive Committee, who shall legislate for and conduct the affairs of the Association. Article 3.

Executive
Committee.

SECTION III.

Any person, between the age of fourteen and forty years, may become a regular member of the Association on subscribing the Constitution and paying to the Treasurer an initiation fee of ~~three dollars and the further sum of two dollars on the first Monday of December in each year following, during his membership.~~ Article 1.

Members.

Any person, under the age of fourteen and over that of forty years, may become an honorary member of the Association on the terms enumerated in Article 1st of this Section, and shall differ from a regular member only in being ineligible to office. Article 2.

Age.

Any person may become a life member of the Association on subscribing the Constitution and paying to the Treasurer the sum of Fifty dollars, but shall not be eligible to office, if under fourteen, or over forty years of age. Article 3.

Life Mem-
bers.

changed to three \$3 per year
or \$4 from \$2 " " in closing lecture comm.

SECTION IV.

Article 1. The Annual Meeting of the members of the Association shall be
Annual holden on the second Tuesday in December, at which time the
Meeting. Reports of the Executive Committee and of the Treasurer shall
 be read, the officers for the ensuing year elected, and such other
 business transacted as may be appropriate to the occasion.

SECTION V.

Article 1. The Association shall have a Seal which shall be used as provided
Seal. by Law.

SECTION VI.

Article 1. This Constitution shall not be altered except at the annual meeting
 of the Association, by the consent of a majority of all the members
Alterations present, and no alteration shall at that time be brought forward
 which has not been previously approved of in Executive Committee,
 and of which notice has not been given in some one of the daily
 papers of the city, three months previous to the time of the annual
 meeting.

SECTION VII.

Article 1. This Constitution shall take effect immediately.
Operations.

BY-LAWS.

SECTION I.

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee, to decide all points of order, and, in case of an equal division of the members on any question to give the casting vote.

Article 1.
Officers,
President.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-Presidents, according to their order, to perform the duties of the President in his absence, in case of the absence of all the Vice-Presidents, a President, *pro tempore*, shall be chosen.

Article 2.
Vice-Presi-
dents.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive all dues and donations in money; to pay all drafts upon him when signed by the Recording Secretary and countersigned by the President; and to keep a record of the receipts and disbursements of the Association, an abstract of which, with the necessary vouchers, he shall exhibit at each annual meeting. He shall also require of the Chairman of each Sub-Committee, receiving money from him, full and correct vouchers for the same, but shall not be allowed to pay any bill for refreshments which may be furnished to any Committee or Board of Inspectors, nor shall any such bill be allowed, audited or paid by the Association. For the faithful discharge of his duties, the Treasurer shall give to the President, in trust for the Association, a bond, in such sum, and with such sureties, as the Executive Committee shall prescribe; or shall give such other security as may be deemed satisfactory to said Committee.

Article 3.
Treasurer.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a full and correct record of the transactions of the Association, and of the Executive Committee; to serve notices of meetings, which duty he may perform by the Librarian; and to notify to Chairmen of Committees their appointment and the names of their colleagues.

Article 4.
Recording
Secretary.

It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary, by the advice and direction of the Executive Committee, to receive and answer all communications addressed to the Association. As Chairman of the Lecture Committee, he shall make the necessary arrangements for procuring the delivery of Lectures before the Association, and on the

Article 5.
Corres-
ponding
Secretary.

expenditure of the funds furnished him by the Treasurer for this purpose, shall take receipts of the Lecturers, whose services he may procure. The vouchers thus obtained shall be presented to the Executive Committee by the Treasurer, at the close of the fiscal year, to aid in the examination of the accounts of the Chairman of the Lecture Committee.

SECTION II.

- Article 1. The Executive Committee shall meet for the transaction of business on the Monday evening next succeeding the annual election, and on the last Thursday evening in each month during the year. The hour of meeting from April to October, inclusive, shall be 8 o'clock P. M., and during the remainder of the year, 7 o'clock P. M. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill all vacancies that may occur in their number, and among the officers of the Association.
- Article 2. At the first meeting of the Executive Committee succeeding the annual election, they shall be divided by the President into ten Sub-committees, of three members each, on Lectures, Library, Newspapers and Periodicals, Finance, Accounts, Rooms and Fixtures, Renting Lecture Room, Printing, Law, and Debating Society, which Sub-committees shall have the special charge of the departments committed to their care.
- Article 3. The Chairman of each Sub-committee, on receiving money from the Treasurer, shall furnish him with full and correct vouchers for the same.
- Article 4. The Chairman of the Library Committee, whenever he shall make his draft upon the Treasurer for funds in the Treasurer's hands, or subject to his order, shall be required to furnish the Treasurer with an invoice of the books for which the money may have been expended. This invoice shall be indorsed correct by the Librarian, and at the close of the fiscal year the Treasurer shall present all the vouchers which he may have thus obtained to the Executive Committee, to enable them to examine the accounts of the Chairman of the Library Committee.
- Article 5. No action shall be taken by the Chairman of any Sub-committee, in matters relating to the expenditure of money, unless by the consent of a majority of his Committee.
- Article 6. The Executive Committee shall have power to present certificates of honorary or life membership to clergymen, and to such other persons as they may deem worthy.
- Article 7. The President, or in his absence one of the Vice-Presidents, at the request in writing of five of the members of the Executive Committee, shall call a meeting of that body for the transaction of special business.

The Executive Committee, at their meetings, shall observe the following rules: Article 8.

At the appointed hour, the chair shall be taken by the President. Rule 1.
In case of his absence, and that of the Vice-Presidents, a member of the Committee shall be nominated for that purpose.

The order of business at each regular meeting shall be as follows, Rule 2.
to wit: Order of Business.

- 1st.—Calling of the Roll; and, if there be a quorum;
- 2d.—Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting, and disposing of the same.
- 3d.—Reports of Committees.
- 4th.—Communications from Officers of the Association.
- 5th.—Resolutions and motions.
- 6th.—Unfinished business.
- 7th.—Receiving excuses and collecting fines. Calling of the Roll.

Any member who shall be absent at the first roll call shall be fined Rule 3.
twenty-five cents, and if he shall not be present at the second calling Fines.
of the roll, nor at any time during the meeting, he shall be fined the further sum of twelve and a half cents, to be paid to the Treasurer; and no excuse shall be allowed, except sickness or absence from the city.

The presiding officer shall preserve order and decorum, and shall Rule 4.
decide questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Committee, Fines.
which appeal shall be decided without debate.

All questions relating to priority of business shall be decided without debate. Rule 5.

Every member in speaking shall rise from his seat and address Rule 6.
himself to the chair, and no member of the committee shall speak more than twice upon the same question, except by unanimous consent.

It shall be the duty of all Committees to make their reports in Rule 7.
writing, by the Chairman, and in his absence by one of the Committee.

All resolutions which may be offered shall be in writing, and no Rule 8.
resolution shall be acted upon until the next meeting after its introduction, provided one-fourth of the members present are opposed to immediate action thereon.

Members may be allowed to retire by permission of the presiding Rule 9.
officer.

The hour of meeting shall be governed by the clock which hangs Rule 10.
in the reading room of the Association, which clock shall be regulated Time.
by the time kept at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Eight members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a Rule 11.
quorum. Quorum.

SECTION III.

Article 1. A Librarian, appointed by the Executive Committee, with such salary as they may allow, shall be in attendance at the Library and Reading Rooms.

Article 2. The Library shall be open daily for the delivery and return of books, from 10 A. M. to 4 P. M., and from 7 to 9 P. M., except on Sunday, the 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year days. The Reading Rooms shall be accessible daily from 7½ A. M. to 10 P. M., from the first of May to the first of September, and from 8 A. M. to 10 P. M. during the remainder of the year, except on the days above enumerated.

Article 3. In addition to the Library and Reading Rooms, the Librarian shall take charge of the Lecture Hall and of the Executive Committee room, and, under the direction of the Executive Committee, shall have the especial care of every thing appertaining to the Association within the Athenæum Building.

SECTION IV.

Article 1. A Course of Lectures shall be delivered before the Association in every year, during the months of December, January, February and March.

SECTION V.

Article 1. A ticket of membership shall give to the holder all the privileges of the Library, Reading Rooms and of the Debating Society, and shall admit a gentleman and one lady, or two ladies (when unaccompanied by a gentleman) to the Lecture Course. Any regular member, when accompanied by more than one lady, shall pay ~~twenty-five~~ 50 cents for each additional lady.

Article 2. The price of Lecture tickets for admission to the Lecture Course only shall be ~~two~~ ^{three} dollars, and shall admit one gentleman and one lady, or two ladies when unaccompanied by a gentleman.

Article 3. The price of admission to single regular lectures, to persons not members of the Association, shall be ~~twenty-five~~ ^{five} cents for each person.

Article 4. The price of admission to each extra Lecture shall be ~~twenty-five~~ cents for each person, without distinction, unless otherwise ordered by the Executive Committee.

Article 5. Tickets of membership may be issued at any time excepting between the hour of 12 M., on the day preceding the annual election and the time at which the polls are closed. *The fee for renewal, on and after the first Monday of April in each year, shall be two dollars for the remainder of the year. * \$2, from May 1st

+ \$1. from from Sept. 1, to end of year - (Dec. 1)

Any person who shall subscribe fifty dollars or upwards to the funds of the Association, payable in five or less than five successive annual installments, shall, upon the payment of each annual installment thereon, receive a ticket of regular membership; and on the payment of the whole amount shall be presented with a ticket of life membership. Article 6.

Life Mem-
bers.

All money arising from subscriptions to the Life Membership Library Fund shall be devoted exclusively to the purchase of books, and may be expended during the year in which it may be collected. The money thus collected shall be designated as the "Life Membership Library Fund." Article 7.

Life
Member-
ship Fund.

The interest becoming due on the Life Membership Fund shall be credited to the Library account, and shall be expended for books and for no other purpose. Article 8.

SECTION VI.

Three Registers shall be elected at each Annual Election in December, as follows: The names of two candidates for such office may be placed upon each ballot; but no ballot shall contain the names of, and no person shall vote for, more than two persons for such office. Article 1.

Board of
Registers.

The three persons or candidates receiving the greatest number of votes for such office shall be deemed and declared elected. The Registers so elected, together with the Treasurer and Librarian, shall constitute a Board of Registry, and whose duty it shall be to receive the list of members at 12 o'clock M. of the day preceding the day of the Annual Election, and to properly record the same in a book provided for such purpose. The Treasurer shall be Chairman of the Board. At 12 M. of the day preceding the Annual Election, said Board shall meet in the Library and appoint a Recorder from their own number whose duty it shall be to take charge of said Book of Registry, and to produce the same at the opening of the polls, and to take charge of same at said Annual Election. The Chairman of said Board shall, on receiving the list of members on said day, immediately proceed to count the number of members in the presence of said Board, or so many thereof as may be present, and immediately thereafter make out, sign and file with the librarian a report stating the number of members, including life members (living), the names of the members of said Board present, and the name of the person appointed Recorder. The Registers so elected shall not be members of the Executive Committee; said Registers shall also act as Inspectors of Election with the Inspectors appointed as provided in Regulation 1st of section 6 of By-laws.

The annual meeting shall begin at 9 A. M., on the day appointed; and on the same day shall be held the annual election of officers, under the following regulations: Article 2.
Annual
Meeting.

Reg. 1. *Regulation 1.* The Executive Committee, at their meeting in November, shall appoint four Inspectors, one to each ballot box, designating their Chairman, whose duty it shall be to receive and regularly deposit the ballots for the respective officers. And at the annual meeting of the Association, previous to the opening of the polls, the associated members shall appoint, by nomination or otherwise, eight assistant Inspectors.

Reg. 2. *Regulation 2.* The Board thus constituted shall appoint a Secretary in addition to their number.

Reg. 3. *Regulation 3.* Four boxes shall be provided to receive the ballots, as follows: The first box for President, 1st, 2d and 3d Vice-Presidents; the second box for Treasurer, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries; the third box for Managers, and the fourth box for officers of the Debating Society and Registers.

Reg. 4. *Regulation 4.* Previous to the receiving of ballots, the Chairman of the Board of Inspectors shall assign each of the four ballot boxes to one Inspector and Assistant, whose duty it shall be to guard against any impropriety in the ballots, and in the manner of depositing them.

Reg. 5. *Regulation 5.* The polls shall be opened at 11 A. M., and shall close at 7 P. M.

Reg. 6. *Regulation 6.* When the time for receiving the ballots shall have expired, the Inspectors shall proceed, in the absence of all spectators from the room, to canvass the votes; and all differences in the counting of the votes, and all disputes which may arise, shall be settled before the ballots pass from the special care of said inspectors.

Reg. 7. *Regulation 7.* The result of the canvass of each box shall be made known to the Chairman without having been communicated to the other members of the Board, or to any person or persons who are not members of the Board.

Reg. 8. *Regulation 8.* When the result of the canvass of each box shall have been communicated to the Chairman, he shall declare the entire result to the Board, and any objection shall be then and there formally made and settled. All questions requiring the decision of the Board of Inspectors shall be determined by a majority of votes, and in case of a tie, the Chairman shall give the casting vote.

Reg. 9. *Regulation 9.* The Chairman shall cause the report to be made out by the Secretary, and having signed it, the signature of the Secretary being also affixed to it, it shall be laid before the Association at an adjourned meeting, to be held at 7½ o'clock P. M., on the day following the election.

Regulation 10. No appeal by any member of the Association shall be in order which is not formally made when the report is declared; and should there be a tie in the case of any two candidates for the same office, an election for such officer shall be held under the inspection of the same Board, on the Thursday next following the day of election.

Reg. 10.
Appeal,
how settl'd.

Regulation 11. Should any of the Inspectors decline serving or be absent, the remaining Inspectors shall have power to supply the vacancy thus made.

Reg. 11.
Vacancies.

SECTION VII.

On the Wednesday following the day of election, a meeting of the Association shall be held at seven and a half o'clock, P. M., in the Lecture Hall, on which occasion the President elect shall be inaugurated.

Article 1.
Public
meeting.

The following order shall be observed in the exercises of the meeting:

Inaugura-
tion.

1st.—The chair having been taken by the retiring President, the Secretary of the Board of Inspectors shall read the detailed results of the election.

2d.—A Committee shall then be appointed to invite the attendance of the President elect.

3d.—Addresses from the retiring President, and the President elect shall be next in order.

4th.—Addresses from other Officers retiring and elect.

5th.—Miscellaneous business.

SECTION VIII.

The officers thus declared legally elected at said inauguration meeting shall enter upon their respective duties immediately, with the exception of the Corresponding Secretary, who shall enter upon his duties on the first Monday in April next succeeding his election.

Article 1.
When
officers
commence
duty.

SECTION IX.

The seal of the Association, which shall be the one already in use, shall be lodged with the Treasurer, and shall be used on certificates of Life membership, legal papers, and such other documents as the Executive Committee may direct.

Article 1.
Seal, how
used.

SECTION X.

These By-Laws may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Executive Committee by a two-third vote of the whole Committee.

Article 1.
Amend-
ments.
Alterations
of By-laws.

Notice of such alteration or amendment shall be given at least four weeks previous to the time of action thereon.

RESOLUTION.

Resolved, That it shall be the duty of the President, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer of this Association to see that proper notices for the purposes of calling the members together to nominate a Regular Ticket, be inserted in the daily papers of the city at least two weeks previous to each annual election, and, further, that it shall be the duty of the President to provide a suitable place for holding such caucus.

ADOPTED, *Dec. 10, 1864.*

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 029 947 590 6